

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed August 15, 2005 (Paper No. 08122005). Upon entry of this response, claims 5-12, 19-26, 46-49, 51-54, and 57-63 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 5-7, 9-11, 19-21, 23-25, 46, 48-49, 51, 53-54, and 57-63 have been amended, and claims 1, 15, 43-45, 50, and 55-56 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and request that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 to include the limitations of their respective base claims, such that claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 are now independent claims. Claims 5-7, 9-11, 19-21, 23-25, 44-51, 53-54, and 56-62 have each been amended to depend from one of now independent claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59. Dependent claims 5, 7-12, 19, 21-26, 44-47, 49-52, 54, 56-58, and 60-63 are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that the dependent claims 5, 7-12, 19, 21-26, 44-47, 49-52, 54, 56-58, and 60-63 contain all features of independent claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59. See, *e.g.*, *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to place claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 in condition for allowance.

Applicants wish to clarify that the amendments to claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 are made for purposes of presenting the claims in an independent claim format as requested by the Examiner, and not in response to any rejections made based on cited art. Because a dependent

claim as a matter of law inherently contains all of the limitations of its respective parent independent claim, and any intervening claims, the amendments to claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 do not narrow the scope of claims 6, 20, 48, 53, and 59 as originally filed.

2. Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 15, 19, 23-26, and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 15, 19, 23-26, and 43-44 have been rejected under §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Ma et al.* (U.S. 6,775,280). Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 15, 19, 23-26, and 43-44 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claims 1, 5, 9-12, 15, 19, 23-26, and 43-44, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

3. Rejection of Claims 7-8 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7-8 and 21-22 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Ma et al.* (6,775,280) in view of *Wilford et al.* (6,678,250). Claims 7-8 and 21-22 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claims 7-8 and 21-22, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

4. Rejection of Claims 45 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 45 and 50 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Ma et al.* (6,775,280) in view of *Grabelsky et al.* (6,678,250). Claims 45 and 50 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claims 45 and 50, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

5. Rejection of Claims 46, 49, 51, 54-56, and 60-63 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 46, 49, 51, 54-56, and 60-63 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Ma et al.* (6,775,280) in view of *Sato et al.* (5,513,345). Claims 46, 49, 51, 54-56, and 60-63 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claims 46, 49, 51, 54-56, and 60-63, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

6. Rejection of Claims 47, 52, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 47, 52, and 58 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Ma et al.* (6,775,280) in view of *Sato et al.* (5,513,345) and *Shah et al.* (6,404,733). Claims 47, 52, and 58 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claims 47, 52, and 58, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

7. Rejection of Claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103

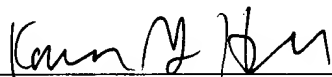
Claim 57 has been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Ma et al.* (6,775,280) in view of *Sato et al.* (5,513,345) and *Grabelsky et al.* (6,678,250). Claim 57 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled claim 57, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 5-12, 19-26, 46-49, 51-54, and 57-63 be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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